

## **Research and Practice Symposium on Marriage and Incarceration**

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*L'Enfant Plaza Hotel  
Washington, DC  
April 20-21, 2006*

**Purpose of the Symposium:** The purpose of this symposium is to more fully understand the strategies for improving outcomes for couples who want to develop healthy marriages through and after one of the partners being incarcerated. By convening a diverse group of experts with research and practice knowledge about incarceration and re-entry, marriage strengthening, family processes, and domestic violence, this symposium will begin to identify research and program development needs that could be addressed by public and/or private sector investment in research and practice. Based on facilitated discussion on a variety of topics, the symposium participants will develop a framework for next steps in expanding marriage strengthening education services and research for couples separated by incarceration.

The outcomes anticipated from the meeting include:

- Increase understanding among the criminal justice and marriage education disciplines about how this issue is viewed from the other side's perspective
- Identify practice needs/gaps in order to improve marriage outcomes for these couples
- Review of research topics for improved understanding of the efficacy of various interventions for this population.

### **Thursday, April 20**

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| <b>10 am</b>        | <b>Introductions and Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jamie Hart, Facilitator, Health System's Research. Inc.</li><li>• Jerry Regier, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Human Services Policy</li></ul>  |
| <b>11 am</b>        | <b>Session 1: Framing Remarks and Facilitated Discussion</b> <p>What are the social, psychological, and environmental circumstances of incarceration (and re-entry) that are likely to affect marriage and family functioning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creasie Finney Hairston, University of Illinois/Chicago</li><li>• Craig Haney, University of California/Santa Cruz</li></ul> |
| <b>12 -1 pm</b>     | <b>Working Lunch</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participants will have an opportunity to learn from their colleagues about their research and practice experience.</li></ul>   |
| <b>1 to 2:45 pm</b> | <b>Session 1: Facilitated Discussion (continued)</b>  |

<b>2:45-3 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3 to 4:50pm</b>	<b>Session 2: Framing Remarks and Facilitated Discussion</b> How do marriage strengthening curricula and educational programming address the specific vulnerabilities of couples affected by incarceration and release? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howard Markman, University of Denver</li> <li>• Lorraine Blackman, Indiana University/ School of Social Work</li> </ul>
<b>4:50 – 5 pm</b>	<b>Closing – Overview of Day 2</b>

## **Friday, April 21**

<b>8 am</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30-10:15 am</b>	<b>Session 3: Framing Remarks and Facilitated Discussion</b> There are critical concerns raised by the high potential for domestic violence in this population, what are the known strategies and skills that could reduce the risk of possible harm to partners and children? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Holtzwoth-Munroe, Indiana University/Bloomington</li> <li>• Oliver Williams, University of Minnesota &amp; Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community</li> </ul>
<b>10:30-12:00 pm</b>	<b>Session 4: Facilitated Discussion</b>  What should to be added to marriage curricula in order to better address the social, psychological, and environmental circumstances of incarceration (and re-entry) and the potential for domestic violence?  What community support mechanisms are important to increase the chances of marital stability and success for this population?
<b>12:00 to 1:00</b>	<b>Working Lunch</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin discussion on research and practice needs</li> </ul>
<b>1:00 to 2:45 pm</b>	<b>Session 5: Framing Remarks and Facilitated Discussion</b> What additional research and practice knowledge do we need to more forward in developing marriage education programs for this population? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randy Day, Brigham Young University</li> <li>• Robert Lerman, Urban Institute &amp; American University</li> </ul>
<b>2:45 to 3 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jerry Regier, Deputy Assistant Secretary, HSP</li> </ul>